

This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that a search has been made or that no other information material to the patentability of this invention exists.

☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. No fee is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). However, in the event that more than 90 days from filing have elapsed and a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account Number 01-1173.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted *after* three months from the date of filing or entry of the national stage or this application, or *after* the mailing of a first Office Action, whichever is later, but *before* the mailing date of either a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance.

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account 01-1173

-OR-

☐ Certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) follows:

☐ *Each* item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application no more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

☐ *No* item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

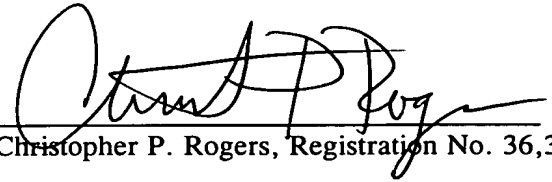
The Examiner is hereby requested to consider these references and other information and make them of record in the above-referenced application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are patentable over the above-cited references and information. Examination and allowance of this application at an early date are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

11/17/97

By:


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail, Mailing Label No. TB 057 257 123 US, in an envelope addressed to: Box PCT, National Phase Entry US, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 11/17/97.

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